(b) if so, the steps taken for proper exploitation of oil and natural gas from Mahanadi basin and Bay of Bengal onshore and offshore; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BALLU): (a) to (c) Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has carried out about 3814 Standard Line Kilometers (SLKM) and 13943 Line Kilometers (LKM) of seismic survey including processing and interpretation in Mahanadi onshore and Mahanadi and North-East Coast Offshore areas respectively. Based on the seismic data, a total of 15 Nos. of well were drilled in the above areas. However, no commercial discovery of hydrocarbon deposits have so far been made.

Under the various exploration rounds Government, of India has so far offered 15 exploration blocks to privatojoint venture companies in Bengal and Mahanadi basins. However, no block was awarded. In the offshore Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery basin, which form an integral part of Bay of Bengal, hydrocarbon reserves have been established and are under exploitation by Joint Venture companies.

Freezing of Administered Price of Naphtha

1195. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to fuel linkages for specified projects other than Naphtha;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after freezing of Naphtha from the administered price mechanism, the power projects based on Naphtha will be affected; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BALLU): (a) to (c) As the indigenous Naphtha has already been committed to meet the demand of existing customers and the prospective customers to whom the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has already approved allocations, the Government has taken a decision that Independent Power Producers (IPPs) requirement of liquid fuels would be met through imports.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas approved allocations of liquid fuels to IPPs based on recommendations received from the Ministry of Power to be supplied at normal (non-subsidised) price under the administered pricing mechanism, as fixed by the Government from time to time, taking into consideration the import parity prices as well as storage, transportation, handling costs plus margin. In case of abolition of APM, the price of the product will be as per merket determined pricing, based on import parity prices plus storage, transportation, handling charges alongwith margin of the company.

As per the model Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) circulated to IPPs, the price of liquid fuels will consist of weighted average landed cost, import handling charge, infrastructure charge, service charge, guarantee charge and actual freight charge or notional freight charge (as applicable).

Supply of Bitumen to Gujarat

1196. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DEVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the supply of Bitumen to Gujarat is tied up with Koyali refinery;

(b) if so, whether the supply of Bitumen is as per their demand;

(c) if not; the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to meet the demand in full?

THE MINISTER;OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS', (SHRI T. R. BALLU): (a) Yes, Sir. Koyali Refinery is the main source of supply of Bitumen to Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Bitumen supplies to Gujarat are on cx-MI basis, i.e., the customer arranges the transportation and the oil companies are loading the trucks reporting at the supply point. Accordingly, the oil companies are making supplies as per the number of State Government trucks reporting for upliftment of Bitumen at the refinery.

(d) The oil companies have been advised to augment Bitumen supplies to the State of Gujarat subject to upliftment by the State through their nominated tank trucks.

Release of New LPG Connections

1197. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 40 lakh new LPG connections and another 40 lakh double bottling connections would be re leased during 1997-98, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 4th November, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of new gas connections Government propose to release in respect of Rajasthan and Orissa States indicating whether any reduction in cost of LPG Cylinder is also contemplated; and

(c) the present position of 1246 Km. LPG pipeline between Kandla and Loni through Delhi for better transportation of LPG, alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) LPG connections are not released on Statewise basis. New LPG connections arc release in a phased manner against waiting list throughout the country depending upon the LPG availability, slack available with the LPG distributors and their viability. There is no plan to reduce the cost of LPG cylinder.

(c) The Govt, have recently approved 1246Kms Kandla - Loni LPG pipeline at a cost of Rs. 1229.45 crores (including FE component of Rs. 386.73 crores). This procjet is likely to be completed wihtin 42 months from the date of approval.

तुरन्त गैस योजना

1198. **प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा**: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दिल्ली में गैस कनेक्शन की प्रतीक्षा सूची में दर्ज लोगों की संख्या कितनी है,

(ख) दिल्ली में तुरन्त गैस योजना के अंतर्गत गैस कनेक्शन लेने वाले लोगों की संख्या कितनी है, और

(ग) प्रतीक्षा सूची को समाप्त करने हेतु सरकार की क्या योजना है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी. आर. बालू): (क) 1.11.97. की स्थिति के अनुसार दिल्ली में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र उपक्रम तेल कंपनियों के पास पंजीकृत प्रतीक्षा सूची में व्यक्तियों की संख्या लगभग 7.25 लाख थी।

(ख) 31.10.1997 की स्थिति के अनुसार दिल्ली में "तुरन्त गैस योजना" के अन्तर्गत कनेक्शन ले चुके व्यक्तियों की संख्या लगभग 6819 थी।

(ग) आवेदकों को यथाशीघ्र एल पी जी कनेक्शन जारी करने के लिए निरन्तर प्रयास जारी है। मौजूदा उत्पादन स्त्रोतों की क्षमता में वृद्धि करके, नए संयंत्रों की स्थापना करके तथा मौजूदा और नई सूविधाओं के माध्यम से अधिकाथिक आयात द्वारा एल पी जी की अधिकाधिक उपलब्धता के लिए योजनाएं तैयार की गई है। नए कनेक्शन वार्षिक नामांकन योजना, डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों के पास उपलब्ध स्लैक और प्रतीक्षा सूची आदि के आधार पर जारी किए जाते हैं।